

For immediate release
October 28, 2005

COLORADO RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION, WATER STORAGE, AND WEED CONTROL PROJECTS ON AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 8 PUBLIC MEETING IN YUMA

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) announces a public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF) on November 8, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. MST, City of Yuma Public Works Department Training Room, 155 West 14th Street, Yuma, Arizona.

Tracy Register, Environmental Specialist for the Cocopah Tribe, will discuss efforts to restore the Colorado River habitat adjacent to tribal lands. The effort involves removing non-native plants such as salt cedar and planting native plants in an effort to restore native habitat.

Jack Simes of the United States Bureau of Reclamation will give an update on the invasive aquatic weed salvinia molesta, which was discovered in the Palo Verde Drain in 1999. Federal and state agencies have ongoing efforts to control the spread of this species in the Lower Colorado River, backwater, drains, and irrigation facilities in the United States and Mexico.

Mr. Simes will also present information about a water storage reservoir off of the All American Canal near Drop 2. The Bureau of Reclamation has begun the preliminary engineering, design, and public process for the project. This reservoir will enhance the efficiency of river operations and water delivery of the Colorado River below Parker Dam.

The CRCF was established in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California. The CRCF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and

continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, and other interested parties. The CRCF has nine volunteer board members who represent a variety of interests in the region.

A complete meeting agenda appears below. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can contact the USIBWC's Yuma Office at (928) 782-1598.

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COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM
Tuesday, November 8, 2005
4:00 - 6:00 P.M. MST
City of Yuma Public Works Department Training Room
155 West 14th Street (at the corner of 1st Ave.)
Yuma, Arizona

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions - Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Cocopah Restoration Project along the Colorado River - Tracy Register, Environmental Specialist, Cocopah Tribe
- Salvinia Molesta, Invading the Colorado River - Jack Simes, External Coordination Group Manager, USBR
- Water Storage Below Imperial Dam - Jack Simes, External Coordination Group Manager, USBR
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 928-782-1598.